CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (original) A method of making bags, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing along a transport path a welding station having at least two spaced-apart elongated separation-welding elements extending at a right angle to said path and adapted to seam and to separate a bag from said web between said separation-welding elements;

(b) advancing a double-layer synthetic resin film web and bags separated therefrom stepwise forwardly through said transport path on a first suction belt conveyor which is continuous at least over a length of said first suction belt conveyor encompassing all of said separation-welding elements at a certain stepping frequency and synchronously actuating said separation-welding elements in step with advance of said first suction belt conveyor to seam and separate individual bags from said web and advance said web and said bags on said first suction belt conveyor;

(c) controlling a step length of each advance of said suction belt conveyor so that said step length is equal to a product ($n \times w$) of the number (n) of said separation-welding elements and the width (w) of said bags;

(d) picking up said bags from said first suction belt conveyor at a location downstream of said welding station with a

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second suction belt conveyor disposed above said first suction belt conveyor; and

(e) advancing said second suction belt conveyor synchronously with stepping frequency of the first suction belt conveyor.

2. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein said second suction belt conveyor is advanced with a stroke length per advance which corresponds to that of said first suction belt conveyor or is slightly greater than the stroke length of said first suction belt conveyor.

3. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein said bags are collected from said second suction belt conveyor on a collecting device having an endless belt extending partly beneath a region of said second suction belt conveyor.

4. (original) The method defined in claim 3 wherein said bags are mounted on pins of said collecting device.

5. (original) The method defined in claim 4 wherein said bags are pressed onto said pins mechanically.

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6. (original) The method defined in claim 5, further comprising the step of padding said bags in stacks on said pins to form respective pads of said bags.

7. (original) The method defined in claim 6, further comprising the step of transferring said pads by a robot from said collecting device to packing cartons.

8. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein said bags are seamed and separated in said welding station by two of said separation-welding elements.

9. (original) An apparatus for making bags from a synthetic resin film in the form of a double layer web, said apparatus comprising a first suction belt conveyor receiving said web and transporting said web along a transport path;

a welding station along said path having at least two spaced-apart elongated separation-welding elements extending at a right angle to said path and adapted to seam and to separate the bag from said web between said separation welding elements, said separation welding elements extending at a right angle to said path;

a second suction belt conveyor downstream of said welding station and disposed above said first suction belt conveyor for picking up said bags from said first suction belt conveyor; and

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drives for said first and second suction belt conveyors for stepping said bags and said web along said first suction belt conveyor and said bags with said second suction belt conveyor synchronously with the stepping of said first suction belt conveyor, said first suction belt conveyor extending without interruption over an entire region encompassing the separation welding element of said welding station.

10. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 9 wherein said welding station is provided with two of said separation welding elements.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus defined in claim 10 wherein said first suction belt conveyor extends beneath said second suction belt conveyor.

12. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 11, further comprising a pin-stacking device downstream of said welding station and receiving said bags from said second suction belt conveyor.

13. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 12 wherein said stacking device comprises a belt provided with pins for receiving stacks of said bags and advancing said stacks of bags.

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14. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 13, further comprising a knock-off device at an end of said second suction belt conveyor for pressing said bags downwardly onto pins of said pin-stacking device.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus defined in claim 14 wherein said second suction belt conveyor comprising a plurality of parallel belts and said knock-off device comprises vertically movable pressing pads disposed between parallel belts of said second suction belt conveyor.

16. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 15 wherein said first suction belt conveyor is a single belt extending at least a full width of said web.

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